

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-10 are now in the application. Claims 1, 6, and 9 have been amended. Claim 10 has been added, support for which can be found in claims 1 and 5. No new matter has been included.

In item 3 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1, 3-7, and 9 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Selli et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,086,263) (hereinafter "Selli") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found in Figs. 1-3 and on page 8, lines 12-17 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1, 6 and 9 call for, *inter alia*:

a mechanical coupling block exclusively supported on the planar top side of the module body, and an optical connector interface disposed in the mechanical coupling block.

The Selli reference discloses an optical interface (230) having an upper component and a lower component. Both the upper component and the lower component are disposed on the PCB. The upper component contains a receiving device for the optical waveguide, and a lens. The lower component includes a deflection mirror surface and at least one lens.

Contrary thereto, in the present invention the coupling block which includes the optical connector interface has a beam deflector along with the receiving device for the fiber optic waveguide, a lens is not provided in the coupling block. Furthermore, contrary to Selli, the module body (lower component) includes the electro-optical converter, which does not require the use of a lens.

The components of Selli, which the Examiner compares to the present invention are neither identical nor equivalent because they serve different purposes. Furthermore, it is respectfully noted that the Examiner is only speculating when stating that the broken line in Fig. 14 of Selli is a module body, as an explicit disclosure thereto is not provided.

The reference does not show a mechanical coupling block exclusively supported on the planar top side of the module body, and an optical connector interface disposed in the mechanical coupling block, as recited in claim 1, 6, and 9 of the instant application. This is contrary to the Selli reference, in which both the upper and lower components are disposed on the PCB.

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claims 3-5 and 7 are believed to be allowable as well.

Furthermore, it is noted that the state of the art does not provide any teaching toward an embodiment of a connecting interface as a separate part on the upper side of the module body, where the interface is exclusively attached on the module body. The feature that the interface is exclusively attached on the module body provides the advantage that additional components can be disposed in the immediate vicinity of the module body on the printed circuit board.

Further discussion of independent claims 6 and 10 is given below.

Claims 6 and 10 call for, *inter alia*:

an optical connector interface being a separate part disposed at the top side of the module body, the optical connector interface having a beam deflector for deflecting a beam path between the electro-optical converter and the end region of the fiber optic waveguide segment.

The reference does not show an optical connector interface being a separate part disposed at the top side of the module body, the optical connector interface having a beam deflector for deflecting a beam path between the electro-optical converter and the end region of the fiber optic waveguide segment, as recited in claim 6 and 10 of the instant application. The Selli reference discloses that the lower component includes a deflection mirror surface and at least on lens. The Selli reference does not disclose that the optical connector interface has a beam deflector for deflecting a between the electro-optical converter and the end region of the fiber optic waveguide segment

In item 5 on page 3 of the Office action, claims 2 and 8 have been rejected as being obvious over Selli (U.S Patent No. 6,086,263) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claims 2 and 8 are believed to be allowable as well.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1, 6, 9, or 10. Claims 1, 6, 9 and 10 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10 are solicited.

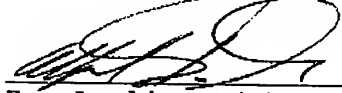
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Enclosed herewith is the fee for one additional independent claim in the amount of \$84.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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